

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IN ANKARA IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0614

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: THE OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: ATHENS 0512

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE ARRIVAL OF SECRETARY VANCE
IN ATHENS TOMORROW HAS CREATED CONTROVERSY IN GREECE,
ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT IS NOT WIDESPREAD
NOR DOES VIOLENCE APPEAR TO FIGURE IN IT. OPPOSITION
PARTIES HAVE ATTACKED THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, CLAIMING ITS
PURPOSE IS TO BRING "PRESSURE" ON GREECE TO MAKE CON-
CESSIONS TO TURKEY ON THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS ISSUES. THE
MEDIA HAVE REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY AS ASSUMING THE
ROLE OF "MEDIATOR" IN THE DISPUTES BETWEEN GREECE AND
TURKEY, WITH SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT
GENERALLY DEPENDING ON THE PARTICULAR NEWSPAPER'S
POLITICAL ORIENTATION.

2. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU HAS BEEN CRITICIZING THE SECRETARY'S
VISIT TO GREECE FROM THE BEGINNING. FOLLOWING HIS INITIAL SALVO
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(REFTEL), IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED YESTERDAY IN THE PASOK
PARTY MAGAZINE EXORMISIS, PAPANDREOU CALLED ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
TO CANCEL THE VISIT. THE PASOK LEADER CHARGED THE SECRETARY'S
VISIT WAS IMPOSED ON THE GOG AND CAME AFTER WHAT HE ALLEGED WAS
A DEMAND BY FIVE VISITING U.S. SENATORS (CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS)
THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS MEET WITH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER
ECEVIT. PAPANDREOU CLAIMED MOREOVER, THAT THE SECRETARY'S

ROLE IN 1967 WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF GREEK TROOPS FROM THE ISLAND WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY LED TO THE 1974 TURKISH INVASION. HE ACCUSED SECRETARY VANCE OF INTERVENING AGAIN IN THE CYPRUS ISSUE, WHICH, PAPANDREOU ASSERTED, WAS EXCLUSIVELY A UN MATTER.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS WAS QUICK TO RESPOND TO PAPANDREOU'S CHARGES. IT IS "UNPRECEDENTED", HE SAID, FOR A PARTY LEADER TO URGE THE PRIME MINISTER NOT TO DO HIS DUTY, WHICH IS TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS INCLUDING HAVING HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CHARACTERIZED AS COMPLETELY ILLOGICAL PAPANDREOU'S DEMAND THAT THE GOG REFUSE TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH IS "A FRIEND AND ALLY OF GREECE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN: IN ADDITION TO THIS CLASH BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE OPPOSITION, THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER PROTESTS. A GROUP CALLED THE COMMITTEE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION ON CYPRUS HAS MADE KNOWN ITS INTENT TO HOLD AN ANTI-VANCE RALLY THIS EVENING (JANUARY 20) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS TO PROTEST THE PRESENCE OF "THE REPRESENTATIVE OF IMPERIALISM" IN GREECE. THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN THESSALONIKI RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL THAT A BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE BUILDING TO PROTEST THE SECRETARY'S VISIT (NO BOMB WAS FOUND). THE
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GOG IS UNDERTAKING MORE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS THAN NORMALLY INSTITUTED FOR VISITING HIGH-RANKING DIGNITARIES, EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY VIOLENT ACTS DURING THE VISIT. THE GREEK CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HAS IDENTIFIED THE HANDFUL OF LEFTISTS BELONGING TO THE COMMITTEE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION ON CYPRUS WHO PLAN TO DEMONSTRATE AT THE UNIVERSITY AND CONSIDERS THEM TO BE UNDER CONTROL. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO WARNED ARAB STUDENTS STUDYING IN GREECE ABOUT ORGANIZING ANY DEMONSTRATION AGAINST SECRETARY VANCE. IN SUM, THE LOCAL SECURITY SERVICES ARE CONFIDENT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. END CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN.
MILLS

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